From: Peter Greenberg
To: Toomey, Tim
Subject: Please do not allow the Boycott of Israel into Cambridge politics
Date: Saturday, April 21, 2018 4:07:30 PM

Dear Mr. Toomey,

I am a resident of Cambridge and am writing to express my concern about a resolution that will soon come before the Cambridge City Council. I am concerned that "Mass Against HP" is proposing to cut off contracts with HP as a boycott of Israel and that such a boycott is simply anti-semitic on its merits. Please oppose this misguided effort.

While the BDS movement attempts to address the rightful grievances of the Palestinian people, it is a misguided and one-sided argument. Of course, Palestinian human rights are extremely important and we all should work towards a just and lasting peace that respects the rights of Jews and Palestinians alike.

The problem with the BDS movement is that it singles out the only Jewish state for its policies, which, frankly, follows a sad history of anti-Jewish actions. Unfortunately there are many countries in the world with bad or even worse human rights records, including many other countries in the Middle East, so singling out the only democracy in the Middle East for its record stings of some other criteria – like anti-semitism.

Groups such as J Street have demonstrated and lobbied for policies that respect both Palestinian and Jewish rights. There are therefore alternatives to the Boycott and Divest movement that do not target one side over the other.

I am not a supporter of Netenyahu's policies in Israel – and his recent actions on the border with Gaza are reprehensible - but as an American who is also not a supporter of Trump, I recognize the difference between a government and a nation. I would not recommend targeting American businesses because of Trump's policies. The Israeli people do not need to be boycotted – they need help in resolving an intractable problem through dialogue and understanding, not less dialogue and one-sided actions.

Please keep this divisive and hateful agenda out of Cambridge politics.

Thank you for reading my concerns,

Peter Greenberg RA, NCIDQ, LEED AP
GREENBERGDESIGNLLC Cambridge

Associate Professor
Chair, Annex Lecture Committee
WENTWORTH INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY Boston
College of Architecture, Design, and Construction Management
Department of Interior Design